

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, MARCH 6th, 1945

The Board of Public Works met on March 6, 1945, in the office of the Governor, State House, Annapolis, Maryland.

There were present:

Herbert R. O'Connor, Governor
Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer
J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller.

Mr. Walter N. Kirkman, Director, Department of Budget and Procurement, also attended the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of February 8, 1945, copy of which was sent to each member of the Board, were approved.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BOARD:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication and statement from the Unemployment Compensation Board covering the fiscal activities of that Board for the quarter ended December 31, 1944, showing Interest Waived of \$2,291.58 and Adjustments, abatements and uncollectible items of \$9,195.83. A letter from Mr. Albert A. Levin, Special Assistant Attorney General, accompanied the statement and requested the approval of the Board of Public Works to the actions of the Unemployment Compensation Board during the period ended December 31, 1944.

The Board approved the action of the Unemployment Compensation Board.

STATE EMPLOYEES:

The Board approved the payment of compensation in lieu of vacations in the following instances, upon request of the State department concerned.

To - Regina Olmer, Stenographer-Secretary, Spring Grove State Hospital for the year 1943, the sum of \$75.62;
Hazel Miller, employe of the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium, for the year 1944, the sum of \$37.50; and
Henry Seidl, Night Watchman, Women's Prison, for fifteen days in 1944, in the amount of \$45.00.

The Board approved an extension of sick leave in the case of Joseph Mullen, employe of the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium, for a period of three months, upon the recommendation of Dr. V. F. Cullen, Superintendent.

See: Item at end of these Minutes relative to A. Lee Creighton, employe of the State Roads Commission.

The Board approved an extension of sick leave for a period of three months from February 7, 1945, in the case of Henry E. Brunner, District #3 Small Tractor Operator, employed by the State Roads Commission. This request for an extension of sick leave was recommended by Major Ezra Whitman, Chairman.

The Secretary advised the Board that the medical expenses in connection with the injuries while on duty to Raleigh E. Stokes, employe of the Clerk of Circuit Court No. 2 for Baltimore City, amounted to \$14.50. The Board had previously authorized the payment of these expenses, when known.

STATE PROPERTY:

The Board approved request of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries for authority to dispose of a six cylinder, 85 horsepower Lycoming motor for the sum of \$100.00.

The Board authorized Springfield State Hospital to dispose of a hand power elevator for the sum of \$50.00.

The Board approved the disposal of property by the State Roads Commission as covered in the Condemnation Reports of that department numbers 3778, 3780 and 3885.

SPRING GROVE STATE HOSPITAL:

The Board approved the request of Spring Grove State Hospital that the hospital be permitted to rent pasturage for dry cows and heifers during the summer of 1945, as has been done in previous years, the rental amounting to approximately \$360.00.

The Board approved request of Spring Grove State Hospital for authority to rent 53 acres, located at Maiden Choice Lane and Shellbourne Road, for the sum of \$400.00, and of 6 acres, located on Paradies Avenue, for the sum of \$48.00, as has been done in previous years, for cultivation for the use of the hospital.

LEASES:

The Board approved execution of lease between the Administrator of Loan Laws and The Calvert Building and Construction Company for a period of one year from April 1, 1945, at an annual rental of \$2,670.00, covering 709-19 Calvert Building, Baltimore.

COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY:

The Board authorized the payment of the following refunds of taxes paid in error to the State from Miscellaneous Appropriation #2, Item #18:

Title Tax: Department of Motor Vehicles, the sum of \$35.74,ⁿ covering check received in payment of excise tax in that amount, for which the Queenstown Bank of Maryland carried no account in the name of Leonard Selig Dunk, Queenstown, Maryland. The excise tax in this case was deposited to the State Treasury by the Department of Motor Vehicles under date of September 15, 1944.

The Board authorized the payment of franchise tax refunds as follows from Item #208-C of the budget of the State Tax Commission:

Keating Memorial Day Nursery	\$10.05	
Consumers Fuel Oil Co.	7.22	
Chapel Oaks Development, Inc.	10.48	
Colored Democrat Club of 5th Ward District	10.01	
Robert K. Kennedy & Co., Inc.	<u>10.02.</u>	\$47.78.

STATE ROADS COMMISSION:

The Board approved the execution of the following deeds which it had been requested to execute with the State Roads Commission, conveying sundry properties no longer needed by that Commission.

- To - Harland C. and Elizabeth Mars, his wife, the remainder of the former Biddle property situated in Cecil County;
- Frank A. Burns and Anna Burns, his wife, certain land situate in Cecil County;
- Eyring Realty Corporation, certain land in Baltimore County;
- County Commissioners of Baltimore County an easement across certain property in that county owned by the State Roads Commission.

Each of the above deeds were approved by Special Assistant Attorney General K. Thomas Everngam.

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND PROCUREMENT:

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Kirkman, the Board authorized the release of one copy of the Code to the State of North Dakota, on an exchange basis to the State Library.

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Dr. Isaiah Bowman, President, The Johns Hopkins University, appeared before the Board and discussed at length the request of that University for an allotment of funds for Laboratory and Classroom Building and Laboratory and Reserach Building in connection with the State's postwar construction work.

Action on Dr. Bowman's request was deferred for the time being.

The Secretary submitted to the members of the Board a statement of the Postwar Construction Fund showing funds available as of March 6, 1945, in the amount of \$2,512,251.08.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from F. L. W. Moehle and Associates requesting consideration of their services in connection with architectural work which the State will be needing in the future in its postwar program.

The Board ordered this request held for consideration at a later date.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from Taylor and Fisher, architects, relative to the work at Morgan State College, requesting information in connection with surveys, etc., for use in the work they are doing as architects for buildings to be erected at Morgan State College.

The Board decided not to approve the extensive survey recommended by the architects but indicated its willingness to approve any surveying necessary in connection with the projects which have been assigned to the architects up to this time.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board the bill of S. J. Martenet & Company in the amount of \$200.00 for surveying done in connection with postwar construction at the Maryland Training School for Colored Girls, for which Mr. Frederic A. Fletcher was employed as the architect for the preparation of plans and specifications. This bill had been before the Board at a previous meeting and the Secretary was instructed to communicate with the architect and inquire whether this bill was excessive since, in comparison with bills for surveying on other State properties, it seemed high.

After considering a letter addressed by S. J. Martenet & Co. to Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Fletcher's letter dated February 20th, 1945, to the Board, it was still felt that the bill was excessive. The Secretary was instructed to refer the matter to Mr. Kirkman for investigation by him.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board the fact that Mr. Henry P. Hopkins, architect, was desirous of being advised as to the work to be done by him in the preparation of plans and specifications for the postwar construction at Rosewood State Training School. The Board approved projects at Rosewood State Training School as recommended by the Maryland Commission on Postwar Reconstruction and Development but Mr. Hopkins states that the institution and the Board of Mental Hygiene are desirous of revising the projects. Mr. Hopkins desired to know what procedure to follow in complying with these requests for changes.

The Board decided that any changes in the projects for Rosewood State Training School should be taken up by that institution and the Board of Mental Hygiene with the Maryland Commission on Postwar Reconstruction and Development, which made the original recommendations to the Board, so that any changes to be approved by the Board would be after recommendation from that Commission.

Mr. Kirkman took up with the Board the matter of buying from Goucher College, in addition to the property already purchased for the State Department of Health, the Laboratory Building of the college, located on the West side of Lovegrove Alley and the corner of 23rd Street, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Kirkman stated that it would be very desirable to acquire this additional building and that it has been offered to the State for the sum of \$25,000. Mr. Kirkman further stated that he thought it might be possible to purchase this property for less than \$25,000.

The Board approved the request that the property be acquired as an addition to the property already acquired from the college and authorized its acquisition at the price of \$25,000 or less, if it is possible to purchase the property at a lower figure.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND:

Dr. H. C. Byrd, President, University of Maryland, appeared before the Board and explained the difficulties being experienced by the University in connection with obtaining personnel and holding them because of his inability to operate under salaries provided in the scales adopted by the Standard Salary Board. A Bill exempting the faculty of the University from the operation of the Standard Salary Law was pending before the General Assembly and Dr. Byrd suggested that he be authorized to prepare an amendment which would extent the exemption to the other employees of the University.

It was suggested that Dr. Byrd prepare an amendment and submit it to the Board of Public Works for consideration before offering the amendment to the Legislature.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication received from Dr. Byrd advising that priorities had been obtained in connection with the construction of cottages at the University of Maryland, as previously authorized by the Board. He also advised that he is preparing to construct these cottages with skilled and unskilled labor which the school will procure and put on their own payroll, arrangements therefor having been made with the State Employment Commissioner as to the employment of this labor. Materials which may be needed will be purchased under arrangements satisfactory to Mr. Kirkman. Dr. Byrd further advised that it is possible they may let the brick-work or plumbing out under contract, but that if they do, they will immediately advise the Board, with at least three bids having been secured before any such contracts are given.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Dr. Byrd dated February 17, 1945, relative to the new Fire College Building to house the College Park Fire Department and to provide teaching facilities for Fire Service Extension Work and education. Dr. Byrd advised that accurate estimates obtained by the State Firemen's Association from a contractor indicate that the total cost will be approximately \$108,000 rather than the \$60,000 included in the recommendations of the Maryland Commission on Postwar Reconstruction and Development.

The Board approved the increase to \$108,000 of the amount allotted for this construction. In his letter, Dr. Byrd recommended that he be authorized to employ the architectural firm of Ross and Walton, Hyattsville, Maryland, for this work. Action on Dr. Byrd's request as to the employment of architects was deferred.

NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from Wm. Pepper Constable, attorney for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, with copy of Bill prepared by Mr. Constable to be introduced at this session of the Legislature, which would authorize the Board of Public Works to execute on behalf of the State of Maryland, and to deliver to the Northern Central Railway Company from time to time a release or releases from the lien of the mortgage, dated January 27, 1855, from the Northern Central Railway Company to the State of Maryland.

After due consideration, it was agreed that there would be no objection to the passage of such a law since any releases the State might execute would not reduce the financial security to the State under the mortgage in question.

BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES:

The matter of lease between the State of Maryland and the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey was reported, by the Secretary, to be in the course of preparation and would be submitted to the Board at a later date.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a request from Dr. Joseph T. Singewald, Director, Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, for an allotment of \$3,500.00 from the General Emergency Fund so that studies of the cores taken from well drillings in Wicomico County made by the Ohio Oil Company could be made. The cores had been saved by the company and crated at the request of the State Geologist without expense to the State in anticipation of the State being willing to give authority for the studies which the Geologist desires to have made of the area of the State in which the drilling was made.

The Board approved the request for the allotment.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Department of State Forests and Parks requesting that payments for oil lease, and subsequent disbursement of funds to the county of such receipts, be cleared through that Department, in order that the established policies with regard to County payments may be continued.

The Board felt that any moneys coming to the State thru the leasing of State property to oil companies should be covered directly into the General Treasury and did not approve the request made by the Department of State Forests and Parks in this case.

BONDS:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board the matter of schedule bond furnished by the Military Department covering various officers throughout the State in their obligation for the custody of the property assigned to the various armories. The bonding company advised that if a new bond were to be written each year the amount of the premium would be doubled, but that if the State were willing to accept a Continuation Certificate the premium would be the same as in the past.

After considering the matter and feeling that the State would be adequately covered by the continuous form of bond, it was agreed to approve the acceptance of the Continuation Certificate in this case rather than to require a new annual bond.

CHEL TENHAM SCHOOL FOR BOYS:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a Certificate of Valuation furnished by the Real Estate Board of Baltimore City in connection with the 100 acres of land, unimproved, located on Johnny Cake Road, Catonsville, recommended as a site for the new Maryland Training School for Colored Boys. According to the Certificate, the property has a total value of \$20,000.

In view of the appraisal covered by the Certificate, the Board decided it could not approve the offer of the owners of the property to sell it to the State at a price of \$65,000. The Secretary was instructed to advise Mr. F. Reid Isaac, President, Board of Managers, Cheltenham School for Boys, of the situation and suggestion to him that if the owners of the property want to revise their offer to the State, the Board would be willing to consider same.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board the fact that a request had been received from the Court of Appeals, through Mr. Maurice Ogle, Clerk, to have the woodwork of the office to be occupied by the Chief Judge, formerly the office of the State Comptroller, restored to the original mahogany finish rather than to have the office redecorated in the same manner as was done when the mahogany woodwork was refinished in antique ivory several years ago. The Secretary reported having conferred with the architect relative to this matter and that a price of \$1900.00 had been received covering the removal of the paint and the restoration of the mahogany finish. It was stated that it was doubtful whether a good job could be done in restoring the mahogany finish and it was possible the work would not be satisfactory when compared with the mahogany woodwork in the Court of Appeals and in the office formerly occupied by the State Treasurer in the Court of Appeals Building.

The Board felt it would not be justified in spending the additional money to do the work requested.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:

Mr. Kirkman reported to the Board that there were sufficient funds available in the Special Funds of the Women's Prison to take care of the increased costs for food, wearing apparel, household supplies and household equipment due the increased population at that institution, and recommended that the sum of \$15,000 be used from these Special Funds accordingly rather than from an allotment to the Women's Prison of \$15,000 from the General Emergency Fund. This matter had been considered by the Board at a previous meeting and had requested Mr. Kirkman to fully investigate the matter. The Board approved Mr. Kirkman's recommendation.

The Board formally approved authority given the Department of Correction by the individual members of the Board to expend the additional sum of \$745.00 in connection with the work being done by the Van Dorn Iron Works Company at the Maryland House of Correction in the South Wing of that institution, on the cells, the detail of this work being covered in a letter received from Mr. Joseph H. A. Rogan, Chairman, Department of Correction, dated February 12, 1945, inclosing two letters from the Van Dorn Iron Works Company covering the situation at the institution.

HALL OF RECORDS:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter received from Dr. Morris L. Radoff, Archivist, Hall of Records, relative to the record problems confronting him, as outlined in a letter dated February 19, 1945. Dr. Radoff suggested that various records which were not being permanently recorded should be recorded in the Hall of Records, but that in order to do this additional facilities for the work and personnel would have to be provided.

The Secretary was requested to refer the matter to Mr. Kirkman in order that he might take the matter up further with Dr. Radoff.

INSURANCE:

The Board took up the matter of the insurance carried by the State Department of Education on the State Teachers Colleges known as Owners, Landlords and Tenants Insurance. It was agreed that the premiums due at this time should be paid but that any continuation of this insurance should not be made until after the matter has been taken up with the Board and some policy relating to such insurance adopted.

MARYLAND TRAINING SCHOOL FOR COLORED GIRLS:

The Board approved an allotment of \$557.56 to the Maryland Training School for Colored Girls for repairs to the heating system and motor truck and of \$1,130.25 for the cleaning of cesspool and septic tank, from the General Emergency Fund.

MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board copy of Resolution passed by the House of Delegates, 7, session of 1945 of the General Assembly, requesting the Board of Public Works to make provision for financial assistance for the erection of adequate buildings for the colored department of the Maryland School for the Blind, out of the Postwar Construction Fund.

No action was taken at this meeting, as it was felt this was a matter which could be duly considered at a later date.

The MINERS HOSPITAL:

After careful discussion of the matter, and upon recommendation of Mr. Kirkman, the Board approved the payment of overtime compensation to certain employees of The Miners Hospital under the same plan and conditions established for the mental institutions.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Secretary advised the Board of receipt of copy of letter addressed by Mr. G. Van Velsor Wolf, Assistant Attorney General, to Mr. Clarence E. Martin, Attorney General of West Virginia, relative to the claim of the Nicholas McCubbins Heirs v. State of Maryland, in the matter of the Certificate of face value of \$666-2/3 about which Mr. Martin has corresponded with the State Law Department and the State Comptroller's Office during the past year or so.

Mr. Martin had requested payment of the face value of the Certificate, with interest, the Certificate having been issued in 1777. Mr. Wolf, in his letter to Mr. Martin, suggested that the State of Maryland would be willing to pay the face value of the Certificate plus interest at 6% for one year upon receipt of the note or receipt of cancellation, contingent upon the Comptroller being satisfied of the apparent genuineness of the note or receipt after he has had another opportunity to examine it carefully.

The Board felt that there was nothing to be done in this matter and suggested that the State should wait until a reply to Mr. Wolf's letter of February 23, 1945, to Mr. Martin is received.

MORGAN STATE COLLEGE:

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board the matter of certain fiscal practices at Morgan State College about which the State Auditor commented in his report of an examination of the accounts and records of the college for the period July 1, 1939 to September 30, 1942, and about which the Secretary had since corresponded with the college to learn whether the practices had been continued since the time of the State Auditor's report. A letter from Mr. James H. Carter, Business Manager of the school, dated February 14, 1945, stated that there had been no change in the stated practices pending a decision by the Board of Public Works.

After due consideration, the Board felt that in fairness to the students at the college at this time who were benefiting by these practices, it would be necessary to continue the practices as to those students, but that in the case of any new students the practices would have to be discontinued.

STATE PROPERTY:

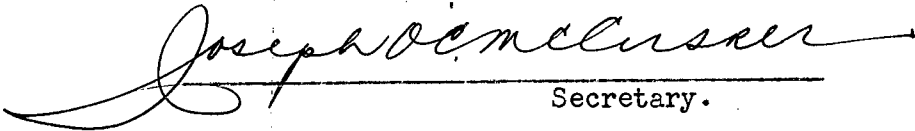
The Board approved the sale of the power boat "Mickey" for the price of \$450.00 rather than the sum of \$255.00 which had previously been offered to the Department of Tidewater Fisheries for this power boat, and authorized that department to accept the new bid.

STATE EMPLOYEES:

The Board approved an extension of sick leave for a period of three months from February 17, 1945, in the case of A. Lee Creighton, Purser, Chesapeake Bay Ferry System, upon the recommendation of Major Ezra Whitman, Chairman, State Roads Commission.

However, the Secretary was instructed to communicate with Dr. George Basil and ask whether, in his opinion, it was a reasonable expectation that Mr. Creighton would be able to resume his duties, as otherwise the State would not be willing to grant an extension of sick leave further as the State does have provision for the retirement of persons from the service because of physical disability when the case of the employe warrants such retirement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary.